

MIHAIL MARIN CHESS

TAL – FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS



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Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Marin, Mihail (2569) - Sachdev, Tania (2414), Candidates quarter final match ..	3
Tal, Mihail - Kortschnoj, Viktor Lvovich	6
Tal, Mihail - Vasiukov, Evgeni	10
Tal, Mihail (2635) - Myagmarsuren, Lhamsuren (2375)	13
Ribli, Zoltan (2605) - Tal, Mihail (2565)	15

Introduction

Since always chess people have been asking themselves which are the ingredients of supreme success. Deep opening preparation, exquisite endgame technique, ample strategic wingspan or tactical virtuosity?

I believe that following these lines will not produce a clear answer, as in all the historical moments there have been a whole group of players dedicating all their efforts to improving in the aforementioned areas, so the question about who would be the best among equals would remain open.

For a long time already, my personal feeling was that the correct answer needs being looked for in the humanly general qualities of the player. I am thinking first of all in the belief in the own strength and lucky star, but also on a famous answer by Spassky to the question who he was afraid of: "Only of myself..."

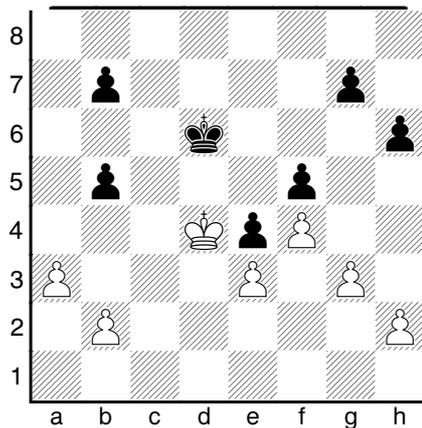
Indeed, not becoming the own enemy or parking break during the game is quite essential in order to give the very best at the board. There are several

ways in which this could happen (people are very imaginative) but the main message of this article is intended to be: "Don't prevent yourself from following your dreams!"

Here is the typical situation: you know your position is better or close to winning, you more or less know which is the best move, you start verifying it. Following your dream means putting all your efforts to prove the move is right, or at least to continue believing in it when calculating everything is impossible. Putting yourself a break means losing the spirit at the first difficulty encountered in the variation jungle; this is the moment when many start proving the move does not work. With all the due modesty I have selected a game of my own illustrating the latter situation. I thought that this way I can describe the feelings typical for such situations more accurately. Besides, the game implies a small coincidence allowing us to step into the creative world of one of the most brilliant players of all times.

Marin, Mihail (2569) - Sachdev, Tania (2414) [E05]

Douglas IoM op 2016



I was surprised when Tania simplified from a bad ending to this one, which looks just lost for her. I spent nine out of my 22 remaining minutes calculating: **34.g4!** (obviously the strongest move) without reaching the correct result. After the game Tanja confessed she was worried about it, without seeing too much. The critical continuation is:

34...fxg4

I quickly established that if 34...g6 Black soon lands in Zugzwang: 35.gxf5 gxf5 36.h3! The engines confirm this is the only winning move. Black is in Zugzwang and cannot "lose a tempo" on either side. 36...h5 37.h4 b6 38.♖c3 ♖c5 39.♖b3 ♖d5 (39...b4 40.a4 renews the Zugzwang losing the b4-pawn.) 40.♖b4 ♖c6 41.b3 and wins.

35.♖xe4

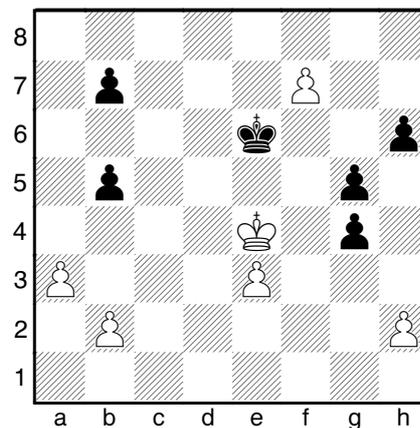
While keeping this in mind as the main

move, I quickly checked 35.f5 but noticed in time Black is not forced to transpose to the next line but can draw with 35...h5! 36.♖xe4 h4 37.♖f4 g3 38.hxg3 hxg3! 39.♖xg3 ♖e5=.

35...g6

35...♖e6 makes it simple for White: 36.f5+ ♖f6 37.♖f4 h5 38.e4 g5+ 39.fxg6 ♖xg6 40.e5+- and Black is in Zugzwang, for instance 40...♖h6 41.♖f5; I didn't consider 35...h5 but this is not a problem. 36.♖f5 g6+ 37.♖g5 ♖d5 38.f5! gxf5 39.♖xf5 Again Zugzwang. The black king will need retreating farther from the e4-square, allowing White winning the kingside pawns.

36.f5 g5 37.f6 ♖e6 38.f7



38...♖e7!?

The trickiest move order.

My line went 38...♖xf7 39.♖f5 transposing below.

39.♖e5!